

on Wall Street. The company's client list started with underserved Brooklyn homeowners but grew to include Fortune 500 companies.

Mr. Procope and his wife were a driving force behind the creation of the Fair Access to Insurance Requirements plan in 1968 to help make insurance available to all residents of New York State. He and his wife were also highly visible in political and philanthropic circles.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by two sisters, Dr. Jean Martin of Bloomfield, Conn. and Jonelle Terrell of Manhattan.

JOHN L. PROCOPE—THE PASSING OF A LEADER IN NEWSPAPER PUBLISHING AND THE CONSUMMATE BUSINESS LEADER

When John L. Procope died last week in New York City at the age of 82, he left behind a number of things.

The first is a rich legacy as an entrepreneur who along with his wife made a success of a business in an area where few Blacks had dared to walk as owners: Wall Street, perhaps the world's most famous financial district.

Secondly, he also left behind a history of having stood on the shoulders of many 19th and 20th century Black newspaper publishers whose organs of information articulated the cause of Black people with verve and determination, during some of the most perilous of times, dating back to era of slavery, through reconstruction, the days of Jim Crow and into the civil rights struggle and right up to these days of immense challenges, successes and failures.

People like John Russwurm, who in 1827 was a recent graduate of Bowdoin College, and a young militant minister, the Rev. Samuel Cornish, who created and launched "Freedom's Journal," the first Black newspaper in the United States were the models for later Black publishers. The Freedom's Journal was the expression of a force and energy that paved the way for thousands of other Black newspapers which stood at the forefront of the battle for freedom, decency, human rights, civil liberties and respect for people of color.

The Pittsburgh Courier, the Chicago Defender, the New York Amsterdam News and more recent additions to the list of outstanding voices of Black people, including the CaribNews, have and are making names for themselves with their clarion calls for social and economic justice and racial equality in government, business, the church and other areas of life.

That Procope was able to lead the Amsterdam News with distinction in the 1970s and early 1980s before he left to devote his full energies to the family business is a measure of the man who like Russwurm traced the roots of his family tree to the Caribbean. His steady hand as the publisher of the Amsterdam News, one of the country's most important Black newspapers, contributed to its viability and while he may not have always pleased all sections of the Black community he certainly made his mark as a voice of reason and frankness, two highly cherished commodities which are often missing in our everyday lives.

As a co-owner and the publisher of the paper, Procope established a powerful presence and became a major asset as an advocate for Blacks. He routinely assumed that role with both dignity and clarity, never shrinking from the task at hand, even if it meant stating a fact of life that some Blacks found unpleasant to mention.

This sophisticated, business-like an elegant 20th century man recognized that the power of Black business, whether in newspaper publishing, insurance or in other ven-

tures could be magnified through firm but behind the scenes action or public steps grounded in principle but devoid of fear.

In his later years, after leaving the Amsterdam News in 1982, a decade after he had joined with a group of Blacks who acquired the paper, Procope, joined E. Bowman, an insurance company founded by his wife, Ernesta G. Procope. He served as Chairman of the Board of the company, which served not only poor Black homeowners of Brooklyn but Fortune 500 companies whose shares were traded on the New York Stock Exchange.

Both Mr. Procope and his wife were noted for their business acumen and their philanthropic impulses.

His passing due to complication from pneumonia leaves the City, the business community and the Caribbean much poorer.

His wife, two sisters, Dr. Jean Martin of Connecticut and Junelle Terrell of Manhattan and other relatives survive him.

HONORING SPECIALIST ERNEST W. DALLAS

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 29, 2005

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor Specialist Ernest W. Dallas, Jr. of Denton, Texas. Specialist Dallas was killed in action on July 24, 2005, in Baghdad, Iraq, in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. According to initial reports, Specialist Dallas died when an improvised explosive device detonated near his military vehicle.

Specialist Dallas was assigned to K Troop, 3rd Squadron, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment, Fort Carson, Colorado.

Specialist Dallas' family resides in Denton, Texas. I would like to extend my most heartfelt sympathy and condolences to his family and friends who have suffered this loss.

CAREFUL AND DELIBERATE ACTION BEST ON EMINENT DOMAIN REFORMS

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 29, 2005

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, many of us have serious concerns about the recent decision of the U.S. Supreme Court in the case of Kelo v. New London and the potential effects on private property owners from local governments' exercise of the power of eminent domain.

Because of those concerns, I joined in voting for H. Res. 340, expressing disapproval of that decision, which was passed by the House last month.

However, as I said then, although I agreed with the resolution's statement that Congress could seek to "address through legislation any abuses of eminent domain by State and local government," I think we should be reluctant to take actions to curb what some—perhaps even a temporary majority—in Congress might consider improper actions by a State or local government.

The States, through their legislatures or in some cases by direct popular vote, can put

limits on the use of eminent domain by their agencies or local governments. I think this would be the best way to address potential abuses, and I think we in Congress should consider taking action to impose our ideas of proper limits only as a last resort.

So, I am glad to note that in Colorado discussion is already underway regarding possible changes to our laws that would modify the scope of eminent domain authority available to local governments.

A good example of that discussion is a recent editorial in Grand Junction's Daily Sentinel, which notes with approval a proposal for an amendment to the Colorado constitution but points out that its proponents should be cautious in their approach.

I think the editorial's points are well taken. I attach its full text and commend it to the attention of all our colleagues.

[From Grand Junction (CO) Daily Sentinel, July 21, 2005]

VOTERS COULD CHECK EMINENT-DOMAIN ABUSE

State Rep. Al White, R-Winter Park, is joining a host of state government officials around the country who want tougher state rules on government's use of eminent domain to condemn private property.

Efforts are being pushed in at least 25 states in the wake of the U.S. Supreme Court ruling last month that said the city of New London, Conn., could condemn homes in an older middle-class neighborhood and turn them over to private developers for razing to build condos, a hotel, athletic clubs and other amenities.

Millions of Americans were understandably angered by the ruling. It opens the possibility that any home or small business can be condemned if some developer can demonstrate that his plans can produce more revenue for local government.

White says he intends to push a measure in the Legislature for a state constitutional amendment that would prohibit local government from taking land for private gain. If it doesn't pass the Legislature, he said he will mount a petition drive to get it on the 2006 ballot.

White's concerns for the rights of private property owners are well taken. But White should be cautious about overreaching. There are some cases where it may be legitimate for government to condemn private property and allow another private entity to benefit from it.

Even before this June's ruling, the Supreme Court had long held that governments can use eminent domain to condemn private property and turn it over to other private developers in order to eliminate blight.

Although "blight" may sometimes be poorly defined, eliminating health and safety issues associated with severely run-down or neglected properties meets a legitimate public need.

White's proposal or any other aimed at reducing the potential for eminent-domain abuse in Colorado must recognize that public need and provide clearly worded conditions under which it could be allowed.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF CORPORAL GEORGE ALLEN ALFORD, JR.

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 29, 2005

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Corporal

George Allen Alford, Jr., USMC, who was killed in action on July 31, 1968.

Corporal Alford joined the Marine Corps at age 18 in 1966 and served on the U.S.S. *Galveston* as a Captain's Orderly. He left the *Galveston* in May of 1968 after volunteering for active duty in Vietnam. By the time he was 20 years old, Corporal Alford was a Squad Leader of the 3rd Platoon of Echo Company, 2nd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment of the 1st Marine Division. He participated in numerous operations in Vietnam including Operation Houston III, Houston IV and Mameluke Thrust II. It was during Operation Mameluke Thrust II that Corporal Alford was killed in action on July 31, 1968.

In the words of his Commanding Officer, "George was a singularly fine Marine non-commissioned officer. His enthusiasm, courage and complete devotion to duty won for him the respect of all who knew him."

Corporal Alford's sister, Brenda (now Brenda Alford Kaiser), wrote the following poem at the time of her brother's death:

Late on a hot evening,
In a rice field in Viet Nam,
My brother gave his young life,
For the cause of liberty.

Marines like my brother are no cowards,
From their foes they do not hide,
For their courage always has been
America's cause to live or die.

They trudged the marshes of Viet Nam,
In the mud thick and black,
And never once did they complain,
When Charlie was on their backs.

America can be proud of those,
Who are United States Marines,
For they still die for us today,
Just to keep our Nation free.

Mr. Speaker, it is heroes like Corporal George Allen Alford, Jr., and the family members and colleagues keeping memories of him alive, who make America strong. It is an honor to represent his community in the U.S. House of Representatives and I urge you to join me in honoring his service and the ultimate sacrifice he made for the country he loved.

DRUG TRAFFICKING IN WEST AFRICA—A GROWING SOURCE OF CONCERN

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 29, 2005

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, in the aftermath of the G-8 summit, there has been much hope for the prospects of the African continent. While I too share in these hopeful sentiments I am well aware that we must remain vigilant in guarding against threats to the continent's development. A July 28th report from the San Diego Union Tribune entitled "South American drug cartels lured to West Africa," is one of a number of recent reports which detail the increasing presence of narco-traffic in West Africa.

Apparently, international drug cartels are increasingly using West Africa as a hub for drug shipments into Europe and North America. The political instability and inadequate government capacity which these countries experience provides the perfect environment for these cartels to operate. Even countries such as Ghana, which have been lauded for their

good governance, will be challenged to dedicate resources to stopping this activity, when they have so many other issues to address.

The increasing problem of African drug trafficking is just one more reason why the Bush Administration must keep its promise to significantly increase aid to Africa, as the stakes continue to grow.

[From the San Diego Union Tribune, July 28, 2005]

SOUTH AMERICAN DRUG CARTELS LURED TO WEST AFRICA

(By Nick Tattersall)

DAKAR.—South American drug cartels are moving their logistics bases to West Africa, lured by lax policing in an unstable region and the presence of small, underground criminal groups, United Nations experts say.

Drug cartels are increasingly using West Africa as a hub for smuggling, working with criminal networks from the region who market cannabis, cocaine and heroin in Europe and North America, according to the U.N. Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

"If you look at recent seizures of cocaine, the biggest are all linked to groups with operations on the West African coast," Antonio Mazzitelli, head of UNODC's regional office for West and Central Africa, told Reuters in an interview.

Consignments of cocaine would mainly come in from Latin America through the Cape Verde islands off the Atlantic coast, or through Ghana, Nigeria and Togo, from where they would be re-exported to markets including Spain, Portugal and the United Kingdom.

Spanish authorities seized nearly three tons of cocaine on a Ghana-registered vessel in international waters off the African coast just three days ago, arresting 12 Ghanaians, four Koreans and two Spaniards.

Spain said the traffickers had picked up the drugs in an unidentified South American country and refuelled along the African coast before setting off for Europe.

Major shipments of heroin produced in southern Asia were also transiting through West Africa, particularly Ivory Coast, after being flown by air couriers from Kenya and Ethiopia, UNODC said in a recent study on crime in Africa.

HARD TO CRACK

West Africa is seen as an attractive transit centre for international drug traffickers because the criminal networks already in place around the region have proven notoriously difficult for police and customs officers to break.

Operating as flexible networks of individuals rather than large-scale, hierarchical organizations, they can market illicit products to diaspora populations in drug consuming countries and recruit couriers among a cheap labor force available at home.

"One of the reasons these networks can abandon traditional command-and-control relations is that many of them are grounded in a common ethnicity," UNODC said in its study.

"Betraying compatriots is not only in violation of deeply ingrained values, it can result in exclusion from this vital support base," it said.

While war crimes prosecutors in Sierra Leone have said international terrorists have used the West African diamond trade to fund their operations, UNODC said no clear links had been established to the drugs trade, though that could change.

"This is the sort of environment within which organised criminal and terrorist groups can grow. There are many well-proven cases of terrorist groups going hand in hand with drug cartels," Mazzitelli said, tak-

ing Taliban fighters in Afghanistan and rebel groups in Colombia as examples.

"In Spain the terror attack was financed if not entirely then partially through drug trafficking," he said, referring to bomb attacks which killed 191 people in packed rush hour trains in Madrid in March 2004.

Mindful of the threat posed by criminal groups operating across borders, police forces around Africa have linked up to a global satellite communication system run by Interpol which is supposed to track fugitives and stolen goods.

Interpol Secretary-General Ronald Noble told reporters in Ghana this month that 31 African countries were now connected to the system.

HONORING ENTECH INC.

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 29, 2005

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today so that I may recognize the contribution of ENTECH Inc., an energy company in my district, and to celebrate the passing of H.R. 6, The Energy Policy Act of 2005.

Located in Keller, Texas since 1995, ENTECH has created solar energy systems which are capable of providing renewable electrical power without emissions and at a reduced cost. ENTECH is the world's leading manufacturer of concentrating photovoltaic solar systems. In addition to electrical output, ENTECH systems can also produce hot water or other thermal energy outputs. ENTECH's "SunLine" technology is able to provide clean and quiet energy for plumbing and lighting systems for a variety of applications ranging from commercial establishments to, most recently, the space program.

The Energy Policy Act of 2005 will provide tax relief to individuals and businesses investing in solar energy. It also creates a goal of instilling solar energy systems in 20,000 Federal building within the next 5 years.

ENTECH is having a significant impact on our community and our Nation, and I am proud to have them within the 26th Congressional District of Texas.

ON THE LIFE AND SUDDEN DEATH OF HONORABLE ARTHUR E. TEELE, JR.

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 29, 2005

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the constituents of the Third Congressional District of Florida, I stand today with a heavy heart following the sudden and tragic death of Mr. Arthur E. Teele, Jr.

On Wednesday, July 27, 2005 the State of Florida, this Nation, and I lost a great friend, patriot, and champion for the less fortunate. His death marks the end of a great career as a statesman, political leader, visionary, decorated veteran, attorney, newspaper publisher and family man.

Arthur Teele was an imposing figure, astute and sharp of mind and wit. He was as diverse as he was intuitive in matters of people, politics and the driving forces behind change.